

Supporting Equity for Aquaculture and Seafood (SEAS) Act

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

SECTION 2. REPORT ON USDA SEAFOOD PURCHASES AND GRANTS

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress on Department of Agriculture spending related to aquaculture and seafood purchases and grants.

SECTION 3. REPORT ON USDA SUPPORT FOR AQUACULTURE AND THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress on the Department of Agriculture's role in supporting aquaculture and identifying the barriers to aquaculture in the United States.

SECTION 4. USDA INTERNAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

- Instructs USDA to develop an internal aquaculture education requirement for regional Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices.
- Requires a secretarial memo that affirms aquaculture's vital role in the United States agriculture system and reiterates aquaculture and seafood eligibility for USDA programs.
- Requires bi-annual aquaculture webinars or conferences.

SECTION 5. REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

- Increases funding for regional aquaculture centers through USDA to \$30 million.
- Limits funds that can be used for indirect costs to 15%.

SECTION 6. RESEARCH

- Bolsters research into methods of increasing survival rate and adaptability of shellfish, including resistance to heat, disease, salinity, and acidification.
- Establishes a grant program to develop next-generation technology, including more efficient gear and equipment, for the aquaculture and seafood industry.

SECTION 7. GRANT PROGRAMS

- Requires the fair consideration of seafood and aquaculture producers for programs compared to traditional land-animal farmers.
- Requires the Secretary to ensure adequate funding is made available for aquaculture producers.

SECTION 8. CROP INSURANCE

- Instructs the Department of Agriculture to develop a policy for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to consider aquaculture products eligible for coverage.